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WTO Reform After Yaoundé: Implications for African Workers

• *Speaker*

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• *Moderator*

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Vahini Naidu is the Programme Coordinator of the Trade for Development Programme at the South Centre, an intergovernmental organisation that supports developing countries in advancing their common interests in global economic governance. An experienced lawyer, trade negotiator, and former diplomat, she provides legal and policy advice to developing countries and their groupings on international trade negotiations and strategies, both in Geneva and in capitals.

Her work spans the interface of trade law and development, with a focus on systemic, cross-cutting policy issues. She leads the South Centre's analytical and advisory work on WTO reform, industrial policy, fisheries subsidies, agriculture, services, and digital trade. She also contributes to the Centre's expanding work on emerging technologies, drawing connections between digital governance debates and developing-country trade priorities.

Before joining the South Centre, she served as an international trade negotiator with South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry, covering negotiations under SADC, the Tripartite FTA, the AfCFTA, and the WTO. She later represented South Africa at the South African Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva, where she coordinated the African Group and served as South Africa's services expert, additionally holding the African Group's focal point responsibilities for Services and E-commerce, and covering Development and Trade and Environment issues.

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